

## CLAIMS

1. A method for preventing, inhibiting, delaying onset of or otherwise ameliorating the effects of an autoimmune disease in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an autoimmune-preventing effective amount of a species of *Coxiella* or one or more antigenic components therefrom or analogous or homologous components thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human or laboratory test animal.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the autoimmune condition is insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM).

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease adversely effects the survival of pancreatic islet tissue transplanted into a mammal.

5. A method according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the species of *Coxiella* is *Coxiella burnetii*.

6. A method according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the *C. burnetii* is in the form of a killed preparation.

7. A method according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the antigenic component from *C. burnetii* is a Q fever antigen.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the Q fever antigen is Q fever complement fixing antigen phase I (QFA).

9. A method for prolonging survival of islet tissue transplanted into a mammal, said method comprising administering into said mammal an effective amount of a species of *Coxiella* or one or more antigenic components therefrom or analogous or homologous components thereof.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the mammal is a human or laboratory test animal.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the species of *Coxiella* is *C. burnetii*.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the *C. burnetii* is in the form of a killed preparation.

13. A method according to claim 11 wherein the antigenic component from *C. burnetii* is a Q fever antigen.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the Q fever antigen is QFA.

15. A therapeutic composition for use in preventing, inhibiting, delaying onset of or otherwise ameliorating the effects of an autoimmune disease in a mammal said composition comprising a species of *Coxiella* or one or more antigenic components therefrom or analogous components thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

16. A therapeutic composition according to claim 15 wherein the mammal is a human or laboratory test animal.

17. A therapeutic composition according to claim 16 wherein the autoimmune disease is IDDM.

18. A therapeutic composition according to claim 17 wherein the species of *Coxiella* is *C. burnetii*.

19. A therapeutic composition according to claim 18 wherein the *C. burnetii* is in the form of a killed preparation.

20. A therapeutic composition according to claim 15 wherein the antigenic component is a Q fever antigen.

21. A therapeutic composition according to claim 20 wherein the Q fever antigen is QFA.

22. Use of a species of *Coxiella* or one or more antigenic component components therefrom or analogous or homologous components thereof in the manufacture of a medicament in the treatment of an autoimmune disease in a mammal.

23. Use according to claim 22 wherein the mammal is human or laboratory test animal.

24. Use according to claim 23 wherein the autoimmune disease is IDDM.

25. Use according to claim 23 wherein the species of *Coxiella* is *C. burnetii*.

26. Use according to claim 23 wherein the *C. burnetii* is in the form of a killed preparation.

27. Use according to claim 26 wherein the antigenic component is a Q fever antigen.

28. Use according to claim 26 wherein the Q fever antigen is QFA.

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